



“Service  
above  
Self”

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# EL CENTRO ROTARY NEWS

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## The Imperial Valley Food Bank

Welcome to the latest edition of the El Centro Rotary News.

The meeting called to order at 12:20 pm by past president Bob Mapes. Pledge of Allegiance lead by John Levada. Prayer and blessing was given by Sara Griffen. Song, "You're a Grand Old Flag" directed by Mike Rood.

Living the 4Way  
Test Daily

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Visiting Rotarians: Richard Acosta, President of Holtville Rotary Club.

Guest of Rotarians: Sara Griffen, Director of the Imperial Valley Food Bank was introduced by Kris Becker.

Guest President: In a continuing effort to keep the members of CODGERS active in the club, President Robert has periodically asked a past president to fill in for him when he was attending meetings out of the county. For today's meeting he choose past president Bob Mapes because several meetings ago, Bob started asking Pres. Robert and other club members questions about the El Centro Rotary Club's history. It appeared to Pres. Robert that Bob really wanted be president again, at least for a day. So although Pres. Robert canceled his trip to Sacramento due to inclement weather, he still honored his commitment to let the big BM to be president for a day. Announcements

## Announcements

Karina Alvarez reminded everyone that the annual Rotary Club Christmas party is Thursday December 5, 6 pm to 9 pm, at 202 South Santa Rosa Avenue. The Christmas party is a family event again this year so bring your spouse, partner, significant other, date, children and grandchildren.

Bobby Brock announced that Ellie Kussman, Phil & Elise Heald and the Imperial Valley Food Bank were some of the honorees at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon on November 14, 2019. That luncheon was held on the same day and time as a Rotary Club meeting which impacted attendance. Acting President Bob stated that although it was a worthy cause, he calculated that 10 members missed the meeting due to the scheduling conflict and assessed Bobby \$50. Aaron Popejoy intervened and took responsibility for the scheduling conflict and offered to pay the assessment for Bobby. Bobby asked that in the future, that the club



I'm Going to the Rose Parade!



Sara Griffen



Good Questions!

consider going dark on the conflicting date or offering the National Philanthropy Day luncheon as an alternate meeting for club members. President Robert said that he would present that idea to the Club's Governing Board.

## Whining and, Well, You know...

In his continuing crusade to teach club members about the history of the El Centro Rotary Club, Acting President Bob had prepared several questions for the past presidents in attendance. Members answering questions incorrectly were assessed \$25.

1. Chris Yeager was asked who was the 73rd president of the El Centro Rotary Club. Chris answered "Bob Mapes." The correct answer was Chris Yeager. His Honor was assessed \$25.

2. Ryan Childers was asked who were the three past presidents known as the "Triple Bills." Ryan said that one of them was Bill Plourd but didn't know who the other two Bill's were. He was assessed \$25. The question was then presented to Cliff Caldwell who stated that the three "Bills" were Bill Sechrist, Bill Plourd and Bill MacKlin who served three consecutive terms from 1994 through 1997.

3. Mike Rood was asked how many families had two members who had served as El Centro Rotary Club presidents. Mike protested that he was a former president of the Calexico Rotary Club and thus should be disqualified from participation in the past presidents Q and A. Acting President Bob insisted that he participate and so Mike answered "two." The correct answer according to BM was a total of six, (Horne, Moore, Brock, Miles, Yeager and Foss). Mike was assessed \$25.

Since he was running short on time to ask additional questions, Acting President Bob gave the list containing his remaining El Centro Rotary Club history questions to President Robert to use at a future meeting.

## Today's Program

Kris Becker introduced Sara Griffen, Director of the Imperial Valley Food Bank as the program for the meeting.

Program: "On A Big Scale." Imperial Food Bank has a new facility located in Imperial, CA at the corner of Aten and LaBrucherie. The Grand opening was in October 2019 and the new warehouse was the site of the 2019 Annual Harvest Bowl Dinner. The warehouse has a new pallet system that increases storage space. The freezers are double in size of what was available at the former facility. There is no air conditioning in the warehouse. The highest grade insulation was used along with large ceiling fans to keep the warehouse temperature at a constant level. This is the only food bank in the Imperial Valley and it supplies food to all local agencies that distribute

food in the community. Food insecurity is significant in Imperial County. One in four adults and one in three children are classified as food insecure in the county. The homeless population in the county is listed at 2,000 adults and 2,400 students. IVFB received the first ever "Organization of Impact" award from the Imperial Valley Community Foundation which was announced at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon last week.

## Lastly

Acting President Bob thanked Sara for making the presentation and presented her with an End Polio Now card and pin. He then asked her to draw the winning ticket for the small pot of \$16 which turned out to be Bob Mapes. Bob then reached into the blue bag and pulled out a white chip. The large pot rolls over to the next meeting which is on December 12, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.  
Attendance was 27 including our visiting Rotarian and guest.